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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0285-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Michael S. H. Chu) Group Art Unit: 3731
)
Application No.: 10/000,325) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: December 4, 2001)
)
For: ENDOSCOPIC APPARATUS AND)
METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines

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that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 17, 2002

By: 

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	06530.0285-00000	Serial No.	10/000,325
Applicant	Michael S. H. Chu		
Filing Date	12/04/01	Group:	3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	3,958,576	05/25/76	Komiya			
	5,275,612	01/04/94	Bales, Jr.			
	5,471,992	12/05/95	Banik et al.			
	5,496,347	03/05/96	Hashiguchi et al.			
	5,728,117	03/17/98	Lash			
	5,846,248	12/08/98	Chu et al.			
	5,849,022	12/15/98	Sakashita et al.			
	5,961,526	10/05/99	Chu et al.			
	6,051,003	04/18/00	Chu et al.			
	6,142,956	11/07/00	Kortenbach et al.			
	6,193,737 B1	02/27/01	Ouchi			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
6-343599	12/20/94	Japan			Yes/Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce